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Joint Maritime Security Centre (JMSC)

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This page provides information on the Joint Maritime Security Centre (JMSC)

For methods for informing JMSC Liaison Officers about an incident see [

Personal Data

Related Links

Personal Data

What is the JMSC?

The Joint Maritime Security Centre (JMSC) exists to increase awareness and understanding of maritime security threats. It brings together the National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC), The Joint Maritime Operations Coordination Centre (JMOCC) and the key civilian maritime security capabilities together in a single organisation.

The JMSC mission is to increase awareness and understanding of maritime security threats and enable cross government coordination to deliver a whole-system response.

Background

In 2019, the NMSC(O) agreed that NMIC and JMOCC would collectively be known as the Joint Maritime Security Centre, led by the Director for Joint Maritime Security. This will preserve the individual functions and identity of

both NMIC and JMOCC, while acknowledging the increasing interoperability of the two.

In preparation for the UK to leave the EU in 2019, the JMSC was mandated to deliver a structure to coordinate HMCG's response to maritime security incidents based on the prioritisation of maritime risks.

What is the Role of the JMSC?

NMIC is an information capability providing a platform for maritime information exchange and development. The JMOCC provides not only a coordination function in response to threats, but also domain and asset disposition awareness. The JMSC brings together information and operational capability supporting all agencies and government departments.

The JMSC facilitates:

- Cross-agency information sharing
- Improved tasking efficiency
- Threat prioritisation,
- Clear lines of communication, across internal UK government departments and international partner agencies

The result is an ability to contribute to the identification and intervention of maritime security threats and crime. This helps safeguard national security, economic prosperity and provides a holistic view of the UK maritime picture. By viewing the maritime domain in this wider sense, asset availability can be juxtaposed against partner agencies' risks and threats, allowing for optimal utilisation and efficacy of assets.

Maritime Threats Group - Response (MTG-R)

The JMSC is responsible for providing the secretariat function of the MTG(R) which will be stood up during complex maritime security incidents or where concurrent incidents require additional cross government support. For more information see [[HYPERLINK "https://mcga.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/CIP-OpDetail/Shared%20Documents/Maritime%20Threats%20Group%20Response%20-%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=vY2EdL"](https://mcga.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/CIP-OpDetail/Shared%20Documents/Maritime%20Threats%20Group%20Response%20-%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=vY2EdL)]
"https://mcga.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/CIP-

OpDetail/Shared%20Documents/Maritime%20Threats%20Group%20Response%20-%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=vY2EdL"]

Stakeholders

The key Government departments that contribute within the JMSC are:

- UK Border Force
- National Crime Agency
- Royal Navy
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- Marine Management Organisation
- HM Revenue & Customs
- Department for Transport
- Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office
- GCHQ
- Special Branch Policing
- SO15 (UK Counter Terrorism Command)
- MI5/SIS (Security Service/Secret Intelligence Service)
- Cabinet Office

Location

The JMSC is based at the QinetiQ Portsdown Hill Technology Site, Cosham, Hampshire

MCA/JMSC Liaison and Information Exchange

The MCA fully supports the JMSC concept. Two Coastguard Officers have been assigned to the JMSC on a full-time basis with complete operational access to all core Coastguard technology. They form part of the Maritime Security Team and report to the Deputy Head of Maritime Security.

Their role is to act as a link between the JMSC and the MCA to enable a mutually beneficial relationship in securing the safety and prosperity of UK maritime interests. This is achieved by proportionately sharing and responding to requests for information held within the MCA network and engaging with other key stakeholders

For this purpose, the Liaison Officers may contact MRCCs regarding incidents, as well as other MCA departments to obtain information

These staff serve as the single point of contact for the MCA in regards to JMSC enquiries. The Liaison Officers are vetted to SC level.

JSMC Liaison Officer Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the JSMC Liaison Officers include:

- Responding to requests for information from other government departments
- Monitoring vessels through the various MCA and HMCG databases
- Reviewing the DOR for incidents of a maritime security nature, which may need to be passed onto other stakeholders
- Keeping up to date with international maritime security news
- The JMSC Desk Officer must be aware of all ongoing operations and incidents that the other desk officers are working on
- Recognise maritime critical sites nationally to understand domain and local risk
- Where appropriate, provide up to date information and intelligence briefings to the wider MCA
- Where necessary, represent HMCG at external cross-government meetings
- Fulfil an out of hours function in case a JMSC stakeholder or HMCG officer needs information or advice for a maritime security incident

What to Tell the JMSC Liaison Officer

There may be occasions where the MRCCs, the JRCC, Coastal, or other MCA departments, may be in receipt of information not related to core MCA business but which may be of interest to one of the other JMSC partner organisations. This information should be passed immediately to the JMSC Liaison Officer

Suspicious Activity

The JMSC Liaison Officer must be notified immediately, regardless of time of day, of any incidents involving suspicious activity

Suspicious activities includes, but is not exhaustive to:

- Vessel with unusually high quantities of fuel onboard
- More lifejackets than required for the type and size of vessel
- Vessel with above average number of crew for its size
- Any observations of mismatched data e.g. AIS vs. Visual observations
- Any activity which is considered to be outside the normal pattern of activity for the area
- Unusually slow moving RIBs (possible overloading)
- Unusual vessel movements late at night or early in the morning
- Incompetent seamanship, with inappropriate dress for sailing
- Unusual activity for the type of vessel e.g. Persons "apparently" fishing without lines or equipment
- Small vessels being loaded / unloaded with people at unusual times or unusual locations
- An unusual increase of persons or activities on the coast
- Yachts arriving from the Caribbean & Central America

How to Contact the JMSC Liaison Officer

Email - jmsc@mcga.gov.uk

Primary Tel No: Personal Data 157 (monitored 24 hours)

Secondary Tel No: See A&T - Full Time Officers - JMSC

Further information on contacting a JMSC Liaison Officer can be found in the Contacting On Call Duty Personnel page.

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